

Canada's National Strategy for Lamps Containing Mercury:

Interim Report on Key Findings and Developments



The [National Strategy for Lamps Containing Mercury](#), published in 2019, aims to eliminate this source of mercury pollution in Canada by ensuring lamps containing mercury are collected and recycled responsibly, while encouraging Canadians to buy mercury-free lighting alternatives.

What are the most common lamps containing mercury?

- Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)
- Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs)
- High intensity discharge lamps (HID)

The mercury contained in these lamps can be released when they are disposed of improperly, posing potential risks to human health and the environment.

Since 2018, 88 million lamps have been recycled in an environmentally sound manner.



Vision & Goals

Eliminate lamps as a source of mercury pollution in Canada.

Canadians increasingly use mercury-free alternatives.

Canadians do their part to properly manage lamps containing mercury.

Diversion is performed in an environmentally sound manner.

Quick facts

- Lamps represented 17% of the total quantity of mercury contained in all products manufactured or imported into Canada in 2019; with the remainder found in dental amalgam (74%), measuring instruments (5%) and other categories of products (3%).
- Since their peak in 2007, mercury lamps sales have declined by **77%** as **Canadians** continue to make the switch to mercury-free LED lighting options.
- LED bulbs are mercury-free
- LED bulbs have a longer life span than mercury containing lamps – lasting, on average, 20 years
- LED bulbs are 50% more energy efficient than CFLs

Regulatory changes

To further accelerate the transition to LEDs, the Government of Canada intends to prohibit the import and manufacture of most lamps containing mercury. See the [Proposed Amendments](#) to the *Products Containing Mercury Regulations* for details.



Provincial Extended Producer Responsibility Program (EPR) Expansion

EPR is policy that extends the responsibility for end-of-life management to a product's manufacturer, first importer or brand owner.

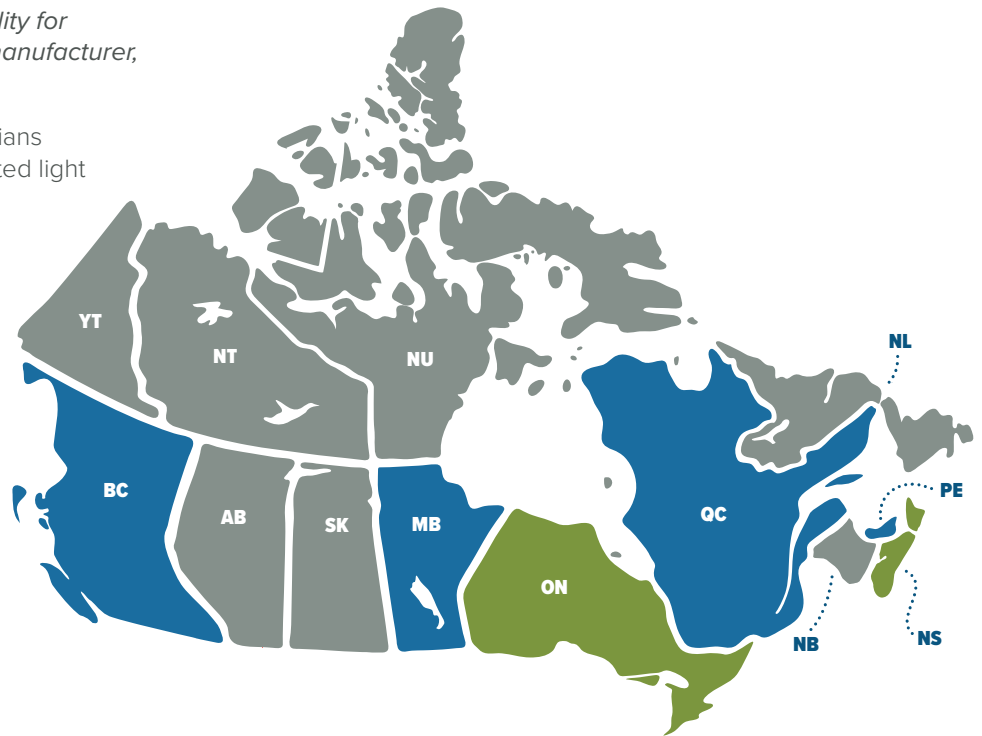
- By the end of 2024, over 80% of Canadians will have access to a provincially regulated light recycling (EPR) program.

New EPR Program

- In 2023, Ontario launched their new lighting EPR program
- Nova Scotia planning to launch in 2024

EPR Program in Place

- EPR lighting programs are already in place in British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island



How can you make a difference?



EPR collection depots, municipal hazardous waste events and drop off locations, combined with voluntary return-to-retail programs continue to provide Canadians with convenient and safe disposal opportunities.

- There are different options available to dispose of lamps containing mercury depending on where you live. For provinces with a light-recycling EPR program, visit www.productcare.org for your closest depot. For other provinces and territories, contact your local municipality for safe disposal opportunities near you.

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CONTACT US

For more information on Canada's national strategy for lamps containing mercury, visit www.canada.ca/mercury-bulbs or email us at dechethgwaste@ec.gc.ca.

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